

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An ultrahigh-strength hot-rolled steel, wherein its chemical composition comprises, by weight:

$$\begin{aligned}0.05\% &\leq C \leq 0.1\% \\0.7\% &\leq Mn \leq 1.1\% \\0.5\% &\leq Cr \leq 1.0\% \\0.05\% &\leq Si \leq 0.3\% \\0.05\% &\leq Ti \leq 0.1\% \\Al &\leq 0.07 \\S &\leq 0.03\% \\P &\leq 0.05\%\end{aligned}$$

the balance being iron and impurities resulting from the smelting, said steel having a bainite-martensite structure that may contain up to 5% ferrite.

2. (original): The steel as claimed in claim 1, wherein its composition furthermore comprises:

$$\begin{aligned}0.08\% &\leq C \leq 0.09\% \\0.8\% &\leq Mn \leq 1.0\% \\0.6\% &\leq Cr \leq 0.9\% \\0.2\% &\leq Si \leq 0.3\% \\0.05\% &\leq Ti \leq 0.09\% \\Al &\leq 0.07 \\S &\leq 0.03\% \\P &\leq 0.05\%\end{aligned}$$

the balance being iron and impurities resulting from the smelting, said steel having a bainite-martensite structure that may contain up to 5% ferrite.

3. (currently amended): The steel as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 and 2~~claim 1, wherein furthermore its structure consists of 70 to 90% bainite, 10 to 30% martensite and 0 to 5% ferrite.

4. (currently amended): The steel as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, which has a tensile strength R_m of 950 MPa or higher.

5. (currently amended): The steel as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, which has an elongation at break A of 10% or higher.

6. (currently amended): The steel as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, which has a yield strength E of 680 MPa or higher.

7. (currently amended): The steel as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, which has an E/R_m ratio of less than 0.8.

8. (currently amended): A process for manufacturing a strip of ultrahigh-strength hot-rolled steel as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 and 11, wherein a slab, whose composition comprises:

$0.05\% \leq C \leq 0.1\%$
 $0.7\% \leq Mn \leq 1.1\%$
 $0.5\% \leq Cr \leq 1.0\%$
 $0.05\% \leq Si \leq 0.3\%$
 $0.05\% \leq Ti \leq 0.1\%$
 $Al \leq 0.07$
 $S \leq 0.03\%$
 $P \leq 0.05\%$

the balance being iron and impurities resulting from the smelting, is hot-rolled, the rolling temperature being below 950°C, then the strip thus obtained is cooled down to a temperature of 400°C or below, maintaining a cooling rate of greater than 50°C/s between 800 and 700°C, and then said strip is coiled at a coiling temperature of 250°C or below.

9. (original): The manufacturing process as claimed in claim 8, wherein furthermore a slab whose composition comprises:

$0.08\% \leq C \leq 0.09\%$
 $0.8\% \leq Mn \leq 1.0\%$
 $0.6\% \leq Cr \leq 0.9\%$
 $0.2\% \leq Si \leq 0.3\%$
 $0.05\% \leq Ti \leq 0.09\%$
 $Al \leq 0.07$
 $S \leq 0.03\%$
 $P \leq 0.05\%$

the balance being iron and impurities resulting from the smelting, is hot-rolled.

10. (currently amended): The manufacturing process as claimed in ~~either of claims 8 and 9~~claim 8, wherein the hot-rolled steel strip is coated with zinc or a zinc alloy, by dipping it

into a bath of molten zinc or zinc alloy following said coiling operation and after having been uncoiled, and then annealed.

11. (new): The steel as claimed in claim 2, wherein furthermore its structure consists of 70 to 90% bainite, 10 to 30% martensite and 0 to 5% ferrite.

12. (new): The manufacturing process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the hot-rolled steel strip is coated with zinc or a zinc alloy, by dipping it into a bath of molten zinc or zinc alloy following said coiling operation and after having been uncoiled, and then annealed.